

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application U.S. national phase )  
of: PCT/JP2005/008106 )  
Shinichiro GOMI et al. )  
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned )  
Filed: January 10, 2006 )  
For: **Image Processing Apparatus,** )  
**Image Processing Method,** )  
**Program of Image Processing** )  
**Method, and Recording** )  
**Medium in Which Program of** )  
**Image Processing Method** )  
**Has Been Recorded** )  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and cited in the international search report. Copies of the listed foreign patent documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO/SB/08 and are in a non-English language:

1. JP 2003-224715 - The relevance of this document is discussed at page 2 of the specification of the present application.

2. JP 55-133179

3. JP 6-348842

4. JP 7-262368

5. JP 8-22539

6. JP 6-195457

English-language abstracts of the documents are enclosed.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of non-English documents 2-6 above, enclosed is an English-language international search report from the Japanese Patent Office in the international application from which this application is derived, citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed

Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 09812.0137-00000

documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

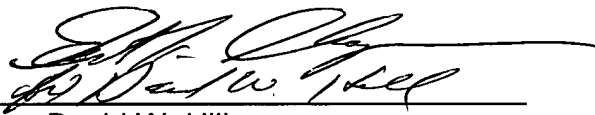
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 10, 2006

By:



David W. Hill  
Reg. No. 28,220

Enclosures  
DWH/FPD/alp

ERNEST F. CHAPMAN  
Reg. No. 25,961

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	January 10, 2006
				First Named Inventor	Shinichiro GOMI et al.
				Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	09812.0137-00000

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		JP 2003-224715	08-08-2003	SONY CORP		Abstract
		JP 55-133179	10-16-1980	RICOH CO LTD		Abstract
		JP 06-348842	12-22-1994	HITACHI LTD and HITACHI MEDICAL CORP		Abstract
		JP 07-262368	10-13-1995	SIEMENS AG		Abstract
		JP 08-022539	01-23-1996	HITACHI LTD and HITACHI MEDICAL CORP		Abstract
		JP 06-195457	07-15-1994	MINOLTA CAMERA CO LTD		Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.